

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 15-17 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 8, 13, and 14 are canceled. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are amended. Claims 15-17 are added. Claims 1-4 independent.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge their claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

It is respectfully submitted that the drawings filed with the present application comply with USPTO requirements, and the Examiner is requested to provide a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, Form PTO-948, with the next official communication.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The foregoing amendments to the claims address the informalities noted by the Examiner on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal are requested of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)/§103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,750 to Roberge et al. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,094 to Ermel et al., and claims 7, 13, and 14 are rejected as being unpatentable over Roberge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,335 to Hendricks et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu generates a corresponding menu level, and a last menu level is displayed in a first color that is different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

Independent claim 2 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding menu level being displayed differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen.

Independent claim 3 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu from a plurality of menus generates a corresponding menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding menu level being displayed differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level being displayed in a first color that is different from a second color in which other menu levels are displayed on the menu screen.

Independent claim 4 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu from a plurality of menus generates a corresponding menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding menu level being displayed differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level being displayed in a first color that is different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Roberge et al. merely shows a display that contains a set of buttons for current choices 93 and a set of buttons that corresponds to the path from the route node to these choices 91. The current choices are displayed in black-on-white, whereas the path to these choices is displayed in reverse video as shown, for example, in FIG. 9. Roberge et al. does not teach or suggest that a last menu level be displayed in a color that is different from the color of intermediate menu levels, as required by claim 1. The selection left ventricle in FIG. 9 should be black-on-white to conform to claim 1.

With respect to claims 2-4, Roberge et al. does not teach or suggest that a selected menu and its corresponding menu level are displayed differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, as set forth in these claims.

In rejecting claim 8, the Office Action relies on Ermel et al. However, Ermel et al. neither teaches nor suggests the above-cited features of claims 1-4 and, therefore, does not cure the deficiencies of Roberge et al. with respect to any of claims 1-4.

The Office Action relies on Hendricks et al. in rejecting claims 7, 13, and 14. The rejection of these claims is moot, because these claims are canceled. It is noted, however, Hendricks et al. neither teaches nor suggests the above-cited features of claims 1-4 and, therefore, does not cure the deficiencies of Roberge et al. with respect to any of claims 1-4.

It is respectfully submitted that the combinations of elements set forth in amended independent claims 1-4 are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Roberge et al., Ermel et al., and Hendricks et al., and that independent claims 1-4, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal are requested of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a).

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner has not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

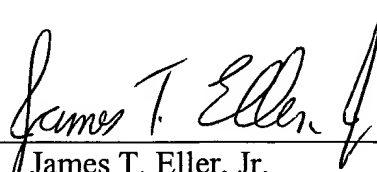
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If any issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya, Reg. No. 48,107, at (703) 205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDMENTS

CLAIMS 7, 8, 13, AND 14 ARE CANCELED WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR DISCLAIMER.

CLAIMS 1-6 AND 9-12 ARE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. (Amended) A method for displaying a menu screen [of] on a video display apparatus [which displays images in which a finally selected], the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus and menu levels, wherein selecting a menu [of the menus displayed on a screen is displayed in a predetermined color, and the upper menus] generates a corresponding [to the path of the finally selected] menu [are] level, and a last menu level is displayed in [the same] a first color[, which] that is different from [the predetermined] a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

2. (Amended) A method for displaying a menu screen [of] on a video display apparatus [which displays images, in which pairs], the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus [consisting of a] and menu [of menus] levels, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding menu level being displayed [on a screen and its corresponding lower menu are displayed to be differentiated] differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen.

3. (Amended) A method for displaying a menu screen [of] on a video display apparatus [which displays images, in which pairs], the menu screen comprising a plurality of

menus [consisting of a] and menu [of menus] levels, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding menu level being displayed [on a screen and its corresponding lower menu are displayed to be differentiated] differently from other menus[, and a finally selected] and menu levels on the menu [is displayed in a predetermined color different from that of other menus] screen, and a last menu level is displayed in a first color that is different from a second color in which other menu levels are displayed on the menu screen.

4. (Amended) A method for displaying a menu screen [of] on a video display apparatus [which displays images, in which pairs], the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus [consisting of a] and menu [of menus displayed on] levels, wherein selecting a [screen and its corresponding lower] menu [are displayed to be differentiated] from [other] the plurality of menus[, and the upper menus of a finally] generates a corresponding menu level, the selected menu [are] and the corresponding menu level being displayed [in the same color which is different] differently from [the display] other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level being displayed in a first color [of the finally selected] that is different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

5. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the [pairs of] menus [consisting of a predetermined] and menu [and its corresponding lower menu] levels are displayed [to be differentiated by] using blocks, and the selected menu and the corresponding menu level are displayed on a different block from other menus and menu levels.

6. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the [pairs of] menus [consisting of a predetermined] and menu [and its corresponding lower menu] levels are displayed [to be differentiated by] using [shading difference] different shadings, and the selected menu and the corresponding menu level are displayed using a shading that is different from the shadings of the other menus and menu levels.

9. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the [pairs of] menus [consisting of a predetermined] and menu [and its corresponding lower menu] levels are displayed [to be differentiated by] using blocks, and the selected menu and the corresponding menu level are displayed on a different block from other menus and menu levels.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, [pairs of] menus [consisting of a predetermined] and menu [and its corresponding lower menu] levels are displayed [to be differentiated by] using blocks, and the selected menu and the corresponding menu level are displayed on a different block from other menus and menu levels.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the [pairs of] menus [consisting of a predetermined] and menu [and its corresponding lower menu] levels are displayed [to be differentiated by] using [shading difference] different shadings, and the selected menu and the corresponding menu level are displayed using a shading that is different from the shadings of the other menus and menu levels.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the [pairs of] menus [consisting of a predetermined] and menu [and its corresponding lower menu] levels are displayed [to be differentiated by] using [shading difference] different shadings, and the selected menu and the corresponding menu level are displayed using a shading that is different from the shadings of the other menus and menu levels.

CLAIMS 15-17 ARE ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

-- 15. The method according to claim 5, wherein each of the blocks is displayed three-dimensionally so as to show its height.

16. The method according to claim 9, wherein each of the blocks is displayed three-dimensionally so as to show its height.

17. The method according to claim 10, wherein each of the blocks is displayed three-dimensionally so as to show its height. --